Legislative Agenda

243,000 Registered Nurses in Texas Need Your Support

6 Issues
- APRN Full Practice Authority
- Nurse Education
- School Nurses
- Workplace Violence Prevention
- Texas Women's Health
- Public Health
OUR PRIORITIES

ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES

NLAC recommends increasing access to care for Texans by removing unnecessary barriers to practice for APRNs and preserving APRN practice.

- HB 278 by Rep. Tom Oliverson – PAA supervision meetings by videoconference
- SB 311 by Sen. Charles Perry – PAA supervision meetings by videoconference

PUBLIC HEALTH COALITION

NLAC supports public health initiatives that will benefit Texans and lower state health care expenditures. The Legislature should protect our youth by improving the quality of health education in schools and raising the minimum age of tobacco sales from 18 to 21. The Legislature should support communicable disease prevention by ensuring parents have the right to know about school vaccination exemption rates, requiring influenza vaccination and improving access to the safety-net immunization program.

- SB 338 by Sen. Joan Huffman – Setting minimum tobacco purchase age at 21
- HB 749 by Rep. John Zerwas – Setting minimum tobacco purchase age at 21

SCHOOL NURSES

School nurses are the first line of caregivers for children with existing or developing health issues. NLAC encourages the Legislature to allow providers in Texas to prescribe asthma inhalers to schools under a standing order so that school nurses can adequately provide emergency care to students in need.

- SB 358 by Sen. Juan Hinojosa – Increasing flexibility in the NFLRP

WORKPLACE PROTECTION

NLAC supports applying safe patient handling and mobility requirements, mandatory overtime prohibitions, nurse staffing requirements and workplace safety procedural requirements for freestanding emergency facilities. These are required of hospitals, and freestanding centers should meet the same standards.

- NLAC supports legislation which expands workplace violence protection for health care facility employees and requires broad reporting and preventive measures.
  - HB 1146 by Rep. Donna Howard – Requiring workplace violence protections for health care facilities

TEXAS WOMEN’S HEALTH COALITION

NLAC supports strengthening Women’s Health Programs, improving access to contraceptives and minimizing barriers to preventative care.

NURSE EDUCATION

The Nursing Shortage Reduction Program (NSRP) provides incentive funding to institutions that increase nursing graduates. Given the severity of the nursing shortage in Texas, NLAC recommends continuing this program and increasing both flexibility and utilization of the program with increased appropriation.

- The Nursing Faculty Loan Repayment Program provides an incentive for nurses to accept faculty positions in nursing schools. NLAC recommends increasing the flexibility of the program as well as the appropriation to support it.
  - SB 358 by Sen. Juan Hinojosa – Increasing flexibility in the NFLRP
The Nursing Legislative Agenda Coalition (NLAC) is a coalition of nursing organizations around Texas that join together to share ideas, strategies and priorities for nursing issues during the Texas Legislature.

Each legislative session, NLAC representatives work at the Capitol to further a nursing legislative agenda that the coalition developed and agreed upon during the interim.

This joint effort includes input from tens of thousands of nurses on each agenda item and amplifies our collective voice on issues that no individual organization alone could tackle.

NLAC is led by Texas Nurses Association, the oldest and largest nursing association in Texas. Our members represent all segments of nursing practice, and our mission is to empower nurses to advance the profession.

Texas Nurses Association
Texas Nurse Practitioners
Association of Operating Room Nurses of Greater Houston
Association of Operating Room Nurses – North Harris Montgomery County
Association of Women’s Health, Obstetrics & Neonatal Nurses
Consortium of Texas Certified Nurse Midwives
Houston Chapter Oncology Nursing Society
Houston Organization of Nurse Executives
Psychiatric Advanced Practice Nurses of Texas
Psychiatric Advanced Practice Nurses of Austin
Texas Association of Deans & Directors of Professional Nursing Programs
Texas Association for Home Care and Hospice
Texas Association of Vocational Nurse Educators
Texas Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Texas Clinical Nurse Specialists
Texas Council of Perioperative Registered Nurses
Texas Emergency Nurses Association
Texas Nursing Students’ Association
Texas Organization of Associate Degree Nurses
Texas Organization of Baccalaureate & Graduate Nurse Educators
Texas Organization of Nurse Executives
Texas School Nurses Organization

IMPROVE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL TEXANS
BY SUPPORTING TEXAS NURSES
Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) are masters- or doctorate-level health care providers who are subject to specific occupational licensing barriers which limit access to care for patients and drive up the cost of health care in Texas.

Support HB 278 and SB 311

Support SB 358

By 2030, Texas will be 60,000 nurses short.

Workplace Violence

Of all workplace assaults, 70% occurred in health care and social service settings. One in two nurses has experienced workplace violence. HB 1146 will provide protections for nurses and other health care workers.

Support HB 1146

The majority of nurses surveyed by the Texas Department of State Health Services had experienced one of these types of workplace violence.

What Texas Needs:

HB 1146 will require

• A workplace violence prevention policy and plans at health care facilities.
• An annual review of the plan.
• Workplace safety training.
• A system for responding to violent incidents.
• Facilities to provide post-incident treatment.
THANK YOU for Supporting Texas Nurses

Acting on the issues in the NLAC Legislative Agenda will not only improve nurses' work environments but ultimately lead to better care for patients and all Texans.

CONTACT:
Andrew Cates
acates@texasnurses.org
512.452.0645 x157

texasnurses.org/NLAC